MULTICULTURAL RESOURCES FOR LITERATURE

GRADE SEVEN TO GRADE TWELVE

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LITERATURE with multicultural content

This bibliography has been produced to provide teachers with a list of titles in literature that are available through the Multiculture Educational Resource Centre. The titles that are listed are annotated and indicate appropriate grade level.

Some of the books included in the bibliography depict the history of ethnic immigration in North America, while others deal with such topics as racism, prejudice, and discrimination. Above all, these books portray the multicultural nature of our society.

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MULTICULTURE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE
AUGUST, 1987

CALL NO. GR. LEVEL

896. TITLE: AFRICAN SHORT STORIES. 9 - 12
301 EDITORS: Chinua Achebe & C.L. Innes.
A37 PUBLISHER: Heinemann Educational Books Ltd
London,G.B.
1985

This book is an anthology of short stories from Africa. It represents writers of different regions showing the rich contrasts of Africa, but equally revealing a certain spirit of unity.

F AUTHOR: Anderson, Margaret J. 7 - 12
And TITLE: THE JOURNEY OF THE SHADOW BAIRNS.
PUBLISHER: Alfred A. Knopf
New York
1980

This is a story about a Scottish teenager and her four year old brother who decide to pursue family plans to relocate using the boat tickets to Canada their parents bought just before they died. They manage to go all the way to the Prairies hoping they will find their uncle and aunt who immigrated there six years earlier.

F Bil — AUTHOR: Bilson, Geoffrey. — 7 - 12
TITLE: HOCKEYBAT HARRIS.
PUBLISHER: Kids Can Press
Toronto
1984

During World War II, Canada welcomes evacuees from England. The Williamses, on the request of their only child, Bob, open their home in Saskatoon to David, an English boy, who is the same age as their son. As a result of Bob and David's different backgrounds and insecurity brought about by the state of war, there is a strain in their relationship.

F Blu — AUTHOR: Blue, Rose. — 7 - 12
TITLE: COLD RAIN ON THE WATER.
PUBLISHER: McGraw-Hill Book Company
New York
1979

This is the story of a Russian family who immigrates to America. Alec, a fourteen year old teenager, likes studying, music, sports and to go to the beach with his girlfriend. His young sister, Natasha, is a real fan of ice cream and color television. His grand-father is happy to be able to practice his religion freely. However while his mother gets a job, his father gets depressed not being able to find one and tension in the family. This story illustrates the potential richness of multiculturalism in the American society, but also underlines the sad reality of tensions that can result from cultural misunderstanding.

F AUTHOR: Bosse, Malcolm. 7 - 12
Bos TITLE: GANESH.
PUBLISHER: Thomas Y. Crowell
New York
1980

A young western teenager, Jeffrey - called Ganesh - was born in India and brought up by his father who had strong beliefs in Hinduism. When his father dies, Jeffrey comes to the States to live with his aunt. For him that means adapting to a new way of living. He is finally accepted by his schoolmates who are fascinated by his account of his life in India.

F AUTHOR: Collura, Mary-Ellen Lang. 7 - 12
Col TITLE: WINNERS.
PUBLISHER: Western Producer Prairie Books
Saskatoon
1984

Jordy Threebears, an orphan native boy, moves from one foster home to another until fifteen years of age when he returns to the Ash Creek Reserve to live with a grandfather he hardly know. Jordy has to face the cruel reality of prejudices which cause resentment and anger that prove difficult to overcome. Finally, he acquires a horse that helps him to gain confidence in himself.

F AUTHOR: Cook, Lyn. 7 - 10
Coo TITLE: A TREASURE FOR TONY.
PUBLISHER: Highway Book Shop
Cobalt, Ontario
1983

Tony, an eleven year old girl, lives on a pioneer Scottish farm, twenty-five miles out of Ottawa. She enjoys living there and what makes it even more mysterious is that she believes a treasure has been hidden in the barn.

F Cra
AUTHOR: Craig, John. 7 - 12
TITLE: AIN'T LOOKIN'.
PUBLISHER: Scholastic-TAB Publications Ltd
Richmond Hill, Ontario
1979

In the Summer of 1939, Joe Giffen is out of work, so when Chappie and His Colored All Stars lose their first baseman, Joe who is a talented baseball player, agrees to take his place disguised in black shoe polish. Joe adapts easily to the team which goes touring small towns in Canada and the States.

F Cul
AUTHOR: Culleton, Beatrice. 7 - 12
TITLE: APRIL RAINTREE.
PUBLISHER: Pemmican Publications Inc.
Winnipeg, Man.
1984

Through her characterization of two young sisters who are removed from their family, Beatrice Culleton poignantly illustrates the difficulties which many Native people face in maintaining a positive self-identity. For many, the difficulties are compounded by poverty, and by the larger society's misunderstanding and negative perception of Native people.

F AUTHOR: Danielson Fossey, S. Joan. 7 - 9
Dan TITLE: THE INDIAN SUMMER OF ARTY BIGJIM AND JOHNNY JACK.
PUBLISHER: Gullmasters children's Books
Winnipeg, Man.
1981

Two Northern Ontario Ojibway boys, Arty and Johnny, run away from school and get involved in some tragic experiences. During this time, they try to make a connection between their ancestors' way of living and their own. Illustrated by Harold M. Moore.

F AUTHOR: D'Oyley, Enid. 7 - 10
Doy TITLE: BETWEEN SEA AND SKY.
PUBLISHER: Willams-Wallace Productions International Inc.
Toronto
1979

After many years of living in Toronto, a Jamaican couple decide to spend a summer in the West Indies with their daughters to introduce them to their culture of origin. The two girls discover the joys and frustrations of adjusting to a new environment. Illustrated by the famous Jamaican artist Albert Huie.

F AUTHOR: Duncan, Frances. 7 - 12
Dun TITLE: KAP-SUNG FERRIS.
PUBLISHER: Macmillan of Canada
Toronto
1977

Held in Vancouver, this is a story about a twelve year old adopted Korean girl and her best friend who lives with a single parent. The book deals with their struggle to find their own identity and to accept " being different ".

F AUTHOR: Epp, Margaret. 7 - 12
Epp TITLE: THE EARTH IS ROUND.
PUBLISHER: Kindred Press
Winnipeg, Man.
1974

Through the inner thoughts of Cornelia, an eleven year old girl, and her family's daily life, this novel outlines the Mennonites beliefs and recalls their coming to Canada in the nineteen century.

F TITLE: GATES TO THE NEW CITY: 7 - 12
Gat A TREASURY OF MODERN JEWISH TALES.
PUBLISHER: Avon Books
New York
1983

This book contains tales of one hundred Jewish authors, each of which takes its starting point from the body of Jewish myths and legends. The sources drawn on include the full spectrum of Jewish literature, sacred and secular, including the books of the Bible, the Talmud and the Midrash, the texts of Merkavah Mysticism and Kabbalah, medieval Jewish folklore, and the more recent hasidic lore.

F AUTHOR: Gunnars, Kristjana. 7 - 12
Gun TITLE: THE AXE'S EDGE.
PUBLISHER: Press Porcepic
Victoria, B.C.
1983

The author of this well-documented book, creates a different kind of short story which intertwines the Canadian and Icelandic experience. Altogether, The Axe's edge gathers ten stories.

F AUTHOR: Haas, Maara. 7 - 10
Haa TITLE: THE STREET WHERE I LIVE.
PUBLISHER: McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited
Toronto
1976

Maara Haas' novel depicts the cultural mosaic that was in Winnipeg's teeming North End in the period between the wars. Illustrated by Winnipeg artist Frank Mikuska.

F AUTHOR: Hughes, Monica. 7 - 12
Hug TITLE: MY NAME IS PAULA POPOWICH!
PUBLISHER: James Lorimer & Company
Toronto
1983

This is a story about a twelve year old girl, Paula, who moves with her mother from Toronto to Edmonton. She tries to solve the mystery of her past, as her mother refuses to reveal her father's identity. Illustrated by Leoung O'Young.

F AUTHOR: Kogawa, Joy. 9 - 12
Kog TITLE: OBASAN
PUBLISHER: Lester & Orpen Dennys
Toronto
1981

Through the eyes of a young girl, this novel tells the moving story of the Japanese Canadians during World War II.

F AUTHOR: Langford, Sondra Gordon. 7 - 12
Lan TITLE: RED BIRD OF IRELAND.
PUBLISHER: Atheneum
New York
1983

The pleasant rhythm of life changes abruptly for Aderyn when her father , unjustly accused in the political upheavals of nineteenth century Ireland, is forced to leave his family behind and flee to the New World. Aderlyn is the " Red Bird ", and her story, given in her own words, tells of a young girl's maturing into adulthood, and her family and close friends.

F AUTHOR: Little, Jean. 7 - 10
Litt TITLE: FROM ANNA.
PUBLISHER: Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited
Don Mills, Ontario
1977

The political events of the 1930s prompted a German family to emigrate to Canada. Through the youngest child's point of view, this novel outlines some problems that immigrants face when they try to become citizens in a new country. Illustrations by Joan Sandin. The book ends with questions and activities that are designed to help reach a better understanding of the novel.

F AUTHOR: Little, Jean. 7 - 12
Litt TITLE: KATE.
PUBLISHER: Harper & Row
New York
1971

Kate is a book about a thirteen year old's search for identity. Kate, the child of a Jewish-Gentile couple, learns to understand herself as well as others and to see her way through prejudices.

F AUTHOR: Little, Jean. 7 - 10
Litt TITLE: LISTEN FOR THE SINGING
PUBLISHER: Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited
Toronto
1977

Listen for the Singing is the sequel to From Anna, Jean Little's previous novel, which is about a German family who has emigrated to Canada. It is 1939, the beginning of World War II, and there has never been a darker time for Anna's family. Anna, handicapped all her life, realizes that she understands such darkness, and that she alone can help.

F AUTHOR: Mays, Lucinda. 7 - 12
May TITLE: THE OTHER SHORE.
PUBLISHER: Atheneum
New York
1979

Gabriella walked a narrow path between two societies: the challenging and satisfying society of an American high school; and the tradition-oriented society of home in Little Italy on New York's Lower East Side. It was 1911 and most Italian girls did not go to high school. She was privileged because her father had worshipped education all his life and also believed in it for women.

The author's deft combination of earthy realism and fragile dreams breathe life into the Italian ghetto, and a sensitive and determined girl.

F AUTHOR: Murray, Michele. 8 - 12
Mur TITLE: THE CRYSTAL NIGHTS.
PUBLISHER: The Seabury Press
New York
1973

1938 and 1939 were emotional years for many families in the United States, just beginning to rise out of the worst depression in its history. This is a novel of two families learning to live and work together in a trying situation, and of one girl's painful awakening to the realities of the world around her.

92 AUTHORS: Nakano, Takeo Ujo 7 - 12
Nak Nakano, Leatrice.
TITLE: WITHIN THE BARBED WIRE FENCE.
PUBLISHER: University of Toronto Press
Toronto
1980

This book is based on diaries that Takeo Ujo Nakano kept during the 1940s. It is a personal account of one of the darkest episode in Canada's history - the forced evacuation during the Second World War of 21,000 Japaneses from British Columbia. In an afterword, W. Peter Ward places the story of Takeo Nakano in its historical context.

819. TITLE: OTHER VOICES. 7 - 12
080 EDITOR: Lorris Elliott.
896 PUBLISHER: Willams-Wallace
084 Toronto
1985

This book contains an anthology of literary writings (poetry and prose fiction) by Blacks who live in Canada.

F AUTHOR: Paperny, Myra. 7 - 9
Pap TITLE: THE WOODEN PEOPLE.
PUBLISHER: Little, Brown and Company
Toronto
1976

A young boy, Teddy, angry because his family is moving again, begins to play with puppets rather than make new friends. The author says that one of the reasons she wrote The Wooden People was to show something about Canada as a young country. Illustrated by Ken Stampnick.

F AUTHOR: Pellowski, Anne. 7 - 12
Pel TITLE: FIRST FARM IN THE VALLEY:
ANNA'S STORY.
PUBLISHER: Philomel Books
New York
1982

Based on the childhood experiences of Ms. Pellowski's great-aunt, First farm in the valley: Anna's story is one of a quartet of books tracing four generations of a Polish-American family. Anna, born in America, longs to escape the rigors of Wisconsin farm life to visit the romanticized Poland in which her parents had once lived. Pictures by Wendy Watson.

F AUTHOR: Smucker, Barbara. 7 - 12
Smu TITLE: AMISH ADVENTURE.
PUBLISHER: Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited
Toronto
1983

A twelve year old boy's adventure enables the reader to learn about the Amish way of living.

F AUTHOR: Smucker, Barbara. 7 - 12
Smu TITLE: DAYS OF TERROR.
PUBLISHER: Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited
Toronto
1979

Set in 1917 and the years following, Barbara Smucker's novel has as its climax the epic story of a mass exodus of Mennonites to Canada and the United States, away from the horrors of anarchy, famine and the Russian revolution. It is a book that is historically accurate and touching.

F AUTHOR: Smucker, Barbara. 7 - 12
Smu TITLE: HENRY'S RED SEA.
PUBLISHER: Herald Press
Kitchener, Ontario
1955

The homes and villages of many Mennonite farmers in the Russian Ukraine were burned to the ground at the end of World War II. The inhabitants fled to escape prison and death. Henry's Red Sea is a story which brings out how it all happened. Written so that young people can understand this important part of contemporary Mennonite history. Illustrated by Allan Eitzen.

F AUTHOR: Smucker, Barbara. 7 - 12
Smu TITLE: UNDERGROUND TO CANADA.
PUBLISHER: Clarke, Irwin & Company Limited
Toronto
1977

Escaping from slavery on a Mississipi plantation, twelve year old Julilly and her friend Liza run North toward freedom. Many incidents in this moving and dramatic story are based on fact. Underground to Canada recalls the horror of slavery, but it also gives eloquent testimony to those who opposed it with compassion and dignity. Illustrated by Tom McNeely.

819. TITLE: THE SPICE BOX : AN ANTHOLOGY 7 - 12
080 OF JEWISH CANADIAN WRITING.
892 Selected by Gerri Sinclair & Morris Wolfe.
4 PUBLISHER: Lester & Orpen Dennys
S65 Toronto
1981

The Spice box contains works - fiction, non-fiction, poetry - by almost forty Jewish writers. The anthology reflects the transition from the past to the present Jewish Canadian way of life.

940. AUTHOR: Takashima, Shizuye. 7 - 9
547 TITLE: A CHILD IN PRISON CAMP.
271 PUBLISHER: Tundra Books
T3 Montreal
1971

Based on her own life while a child, Shizuye Takashima recalls the degrading experience that she, her family and all the other Japanese-Canadians living in Vancouver had to go through during World War II. They were uprooted from their homes and relocated in camps west of the province. Stripped of all civil rights, they were forced to submit to three years of indignity on a scale that makes the episode one of the most disgraceful in the country's history. The book is illustrated by the author's water color paintings.

F AUTHOR: Truss, Jan. 7 - 12
Tru TITLE: A VERY SMALL REBELLION.
PUBLISHER: J. M. Le Bel Entreprises Limited
Edmonton, Alberta
1977

A Very small rebellion is a valuable book in that it is written from a Metis point of view. Along with the historical essay written by Jack Chambers, the book features a fictional story that portrays modern Metis children coping with the problems they face when the building of a road threatens their settlement. Through an understanding of their history, as presented to them by an ingenious drama teacher, the children come to see that they too must accept responsibility for what happens to them. They tried to make a rebellion on their own in an attempt to halt an insensitive bureaucracy.

A teachers'guide is available and includes a play based on A Very small rebellion.